GUIDE TO THE RB5 LITHUANIANS FILE

[The RB5 Lithuanians file is concerned with the Lithuanian people and their culture before Soviet rule. Lithuania is located on the Baltic Sea between East Germany, Poland, and Latvia. Their language is Lithuanian, one of the oldest of the Indo-European languages. Lithuania was an independent state between the 13th and 15th centuries. At the end of the 14th century it united with Poland. This union lasted until 1795 when almost all of Lithuania was annexed to Russia. After World War I, Lithuania became independent. Under Russian domination, Lithuania had remained outside of the cultural mainstream of western Europe, but after independence many development programs were initiated. In 1939 the population of 2 1/2 million consisted of 76% peasants. Virtually all of these peasants were Roman Catholic. Stockbreeding was the most important rural activity. Agriculture was primarily concerned with growing cereals, rye being the most important. The most important cities of Vilnius and Kaunas were inhabited primarily by minority groups.

There are eleven sources in the file. Two are translations, one from Russian (9: Paletskis), and the other from German (7: Jungfer). Sources 4, 5, 6, and 11 are by Lithuanian government officials and deal with the development programs during the period of independence from 1918-1939. Sources 1, 2, and 9 are concerned with the situation in Lithuania after Soviet rule. The file is strongest in the areas of arts, especially folk arts. 7: Jungfer is a study of the development

of the verbal and literary arts, with some attention given to visual arts. 10: Baltrušaitis is devoted entirely to folk art, including religious art and sculpture as well as domestic arts such as weaving. The file was processed in 1955-56.]